

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 174064
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 /103 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

SSM - MR. MC ANDREW

NEA - MR. COLLUMS

NEA/ARN - MR. REUTHER

-----076008 260629Z /15

R 260027Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION SINAI

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

USMISSION GENEVA

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PAGE 02 STATE 174064

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 174064

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JULY 25

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR
JULY 25, 1977. FYI ONLY, THE OFFICER DURING THE BRIEFING
TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

SPOKESMAN: WE HAVE PUT UP A TRIP LIST FOR THE MIDDLE EAST
TRIP. TIME OF DEPARTURE IS SUNDAY EVENING. PROBABLE
DURATION--ABOUT TWO WEEKS.

Q. HAVE YOU ANNOUNCED THE ACTUAL DATES OF THE TRIP AND THE
TRIP AND THE COUNTRIES HE IS GOING TO VISIT?

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PAGE 03 STATE 174064

A. NO. I WILL GIVE IT TO YOU AS SOON AS I HAVE IT.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY INTEND TO BE SHUTTTLING ON THIS
TRIP, I.E., GOING FROM ONE CAPITAL TO ANOTHER AND THEN BACK
AGAIN?

A. THE WAY I READ THE SCHEDULE SO FAR, IT IS A FAIRLY
DIRECT LINE KIND OF TRIP. THAT DOES NOT MEAN, HOWEVER,
THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPLAUSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT DO

THE OTHER. I SIMPLY DON'T SEE IT IN THE SCHEDULE THE WAY
IT IS ARRANGED RIGHT NOW.

Q. WHY THEN THE TWO WEEKS?

A. WELL, IN SOME CASES, FOR EXTRA TIME. YOU WILL
REMEMBER THAT LAST TIME WE WERE DOING IT IN SOMETHING LIKE
EIGHT HOURS A STOP. THIS TIME WE MIGHT STRETCH IT OUT A
LITTLE BIT AT EACH OF THE POINTS.

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S STATEMENT THAT
VANCE WILL BE IN ISRAEL ON THE 7TH AND 8TH? IS THAT

INCORRECT OR CORRECT?

A. I AM NOT PREPARED TO CONFIRM ANY DATES RIGHT THIS MINUTE. I HOPE I CAN POST THEM LATER TODAY OR TOMORROW. I HOPE I WILL BE ABLE TO GET THIS THING UP FOR YOU.

Q. WHAT IS THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ARAB AMBASSADORS' VISIT TO SECRETARY VANCE THIS AFTERNOON?

A. WELL, TWO THINGS, FRANKLY. THE FIRST IS TO BRIEF HIM ON WHAT HIS PLANS ARE FOR THE TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND, CLEARLY, ALSO TO GIVE HIM SOME INDICATION OF HOW THE MEETING WITH MR. BEGIN WENT LAST WEEK. THIS IS A FAIRLY STANDARD APPROACH.
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PAGE 04 STATE 174064

I MIGHT ADD THAT AMBASSADOR DINITZ IS ALSO GOING TO BE INVITED IN TO DISCUSS, BEFORE THE TRIP TO THE MIDDLE EAST, THE QUESTION OF HIS AGENDA IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. THE MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND MR. BEGIN--DID THEY DISCUSS ANYTHING ABOUT RETURNING FORCES TO SOUTHERN LEBANON.

A. WELL, DID THEY DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON?

Q. BUT DID SECRETARY VANCE ASK MR. BEGIN IF HE WOULD LET THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT USE THE DETERRENT FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TO HALT THE FIGHTING?

A. I'M SORRY. THE TALKS WERE PRIVATE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO SPECIFICS OF WHAT THEY MAY HAVE DISCUSSED ABOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON.

VANCE

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